

A Looking-glasse for City and Countrey:

Wherein is to be scene many fearfull examples in the time of this grieuous Visitation, with an admonition to our Londoners flying from the City; and a perswasior Country to be more pitifull to such as come for succor amongst them.



O London, thou Paragon of this Kingdome for beauty & brane buildings, how art thou now widowed of thy chiefest Inhabitants, how art thou left disconsolate, for lacke of thy Merchants, and industrious tradesmen, how fit st thou mourning for losse of thy sons and daughters, all the Centry, that of late made thee their Sanctuary of safety hath now left thee, and with the wings of feare flies from thee as from a place of terror, by reason of this grieuous visitation here laid upon thee, where to the number of 16000 of thy ablest Inhabitants are departed into the Countrey, as they have bene lately numbered in diuers of thy Parishes.

Besides, the hourly ringing of dead mens knels, the digging vp of graues, the shutting vp of doores, the blazing forth of Red Croffes, and the setting Lord haue mercy vpon vs. vpon the forefront of infected houses, makes the remainder of thy Inhabitants hearts to tremble and quake, and to say, what shall we doe to saue our liues.

Some flies to their tender hacted Parents to be succored, some to their brothers and sisters, some to their dearest acquaintance, some to their lands and liuings in the Countrey, to their faire builded houses, leaving their goods and all they haue here behind them in this City, as it were in the keeping of strangers.

What multitudes do we see daile passing into all Countreies and shires of this Kingdome, with their whole families, some to one place some to another, not daring once to looke backe to this disconsorted Citie, both by Waggon, Coach horse and foot, euen as it were bearing packs vpon their backs to lodge vpon.

Oh you men of much feare, why doe you thus doe? Is not God as strong there as here, both not his seruant death as soone strike you in the Countrey, as in the Citie: wherefoeuer you goe or fly he can find you sooth: descend into the depths of the earth, there he will follow you, if you ascend the cloudes he is there also, if to the sea, he will be there likewise, and at his pleasure with his pale Dart of vengeance he will suddenly strike you.

There is no flying from God, for his hand, is both swift & strong, and can in the twinkling of an eye if so he please destroy vs all, and follow vs in any place wherefoeuer we seek to hide our selues: goe not away, but stay, let it set to your helping hands to releue the poore which now are shut vp in the time of this grieuous visitation, & then

no doubt but God in his mercy will stay his beaue wrath and indignation, here inflicted vpon vs.

Yet man I see is mistrustfull, and dares not trust God so much in the City as in the Countrey, else would they not flye so fast as they doe, but rather stay here to comfort the infected, and sooner flye at home in their downe beds, then vpon hard stocks abroad.

Great are the woes of many flying Citizens, that for want of lodging, are forced to lie in the fields in haycocks, and pads of straw: some in Barnes, some in Stables, some in Sheperds, some in hog-houses, yea most in simple cottages, where the fearfull Countrey people dare hardly come neare them, but euer keepe vpon the winde side, lest this doubted infection should blow vpon them.

I haue heard of a young man of this Citie that in this present sickness, went to his father in the Countrey to be receiued, who would giue him no entertainment, till he had waistt himselfe stark naked in a pond of water, and so without raiment to come naked into his house, where new clothes were ready provided for him, and the old ones cast quite away, this was the feare of a father to his sonne.

Others I haue knowne lodged in Barnes for a whole moneth together before they were suffered to come in any house, (though their next kinsfolks) to proue if they were infected or not, and then with much feare they were receiued in: all which is now our Citizens vantage in many Countreies, so great is the doubt of simple people.

These scarcely can a Citizen passe the high wayes without a Certificate, as the vse of vagrants are, but must be either conveyed from towne with bills and clubs, or kept out at the townes end as Gypsies haue bene in times past.

Oh misery, vpon misery, that one English man should thus vse another and to be so estranged, that they will hardly let a Traveller haue a peece of bread, or a cup of small drinke for his money, unless he will eate and drinke it by the high way, and after receiving money they will wash it in a botle of cleane water, for feare the filth should haue the infection.

Many haue dyed travelling by the way for want of succor and warme lodging, and being dead they haue ben buried clothes & all, without prayer or Church rights belonging to Christian buriall, most like vnto Infidels, or as hounds without soules.

The vantage of the Countrey is so hard that at this present time that a fathers house haue been shut vp for giuing his sonne but one nights lodging, and not suffered to come abroad for a whole months space, though neuer so cleare from infection.

These and such like are the terrors of the Plague, which makes the Countrey man shun a Londoner as from a Baziliske or Cockatrice, whose very sight and eyes seemeth to carry infection: some of them at a Citizens passing by, will close vp their doores, and looke out a far off their windows, to see if they passe thorow the towne and not call at any house at all.

This makes London now almost a forsaken City, for her Parkes are greatly decayed, and grow barren, for the Countrey woman dares not bring vp her butter, cheese, egges and such like things, but se: s them more deare by the way as she comes, and more quicker, then if they should furnish our Parkets with the same, and being come thither, she is in danger of shutting vp at her returne backe, for the very money she takes for her commodities is thought to bring the plague downe with it into the Countrey.

Not a Carrier is scarce suffered to bring vp provision for the Citie, nor beare the like downe againe, but is kept out of the towne from whence he came and dwelleth, and himselfe and his cattle compelled to lie in the fields, and not any of them suffered to carry downe people either young or old, though their owne sons, sisters, brothers or daughters, such are the sorowes of these times, God amend them when his good will and pleasure is.

It is reported that in Greenwich a Noblemans footman coming by very sicke, died in a Barn, for which the owner thereof, had both his Barn, and his house shut vp for a whole month after, and none of his household suffered to come abroad, which is a more cruelty & stridnes then is here now in London, where the hand of God now heauily striketh.

For here the care of our Magistrats is such, that seeing the distresse of the poore growing great by reason of rich mens leaving the Citie, that should supply them with reliefe, and the deadnesse of the time, when poore men would worke if they had it, and hauing wrought they cannot get money whom they haue earn'd it, all this considered the care of our King hath bene graciously cast vpon vs, in comman-

ding the poore, and such as be shut vp to be mercifully lookt vnto, and most fauourably comforted by our Magistrats.

The prouidence of the Lord Mayor is greatly to be commended in requesting the Companies of the City to extend their beniuolence to the poore & infected houses, by whose appointment the same is weekly most charitably giuen: likewise his care deserueth the like commendations, in perswading the people of ability to giue their weekly reliefe to the poore that are not able to helpe themselves: also the zeale of our Preachers, that morning euening, and at all times humbly beseech God to be mercifull to this distressed City now in the hand of God, euen ready to be destroyed.

And now to conclude, it is not your flying from the City, the leaving your houses, almost empty in euery street, your going into fresh ayres & pleasant fields, nor your abiding in Countrey houses can keep you from this terrible stroke of death, for you there are visited as well as here, and dye as suddenly in the Countrey, as we in London.

Many could I name at this present time, that no sooner settled in the Countrey, as they thinke in safety, but haue dyed presently, therefore it is prayer and the contrition of sins that must allay Gods heauie wrath, and not your lurking in corners, and by places, for Death can find you euery where he goes before you, he followes after, he beates you compay, he spares none, neither Prince nor Peasant, old nor young, be they neuer so noble, rich, strong, wise, learned, or cunning in Physicke, he comes into your counting houses and hee: your money tellers, he ouerthrowes the dancer, and stoppeth the sweet voice of the singer, he breakes weblocke, makes windowes, sa: these children, and comes in the Chambers of Merchants, their wiues and families: therefore say not with the heathen Philosophers that this Pestilence commeth by mortall chance, by concurrence of stars infecting the ayre, corrupting and poisoning of liuing things: No, it is the messenger of God, his scourge & crosse to all flesh, both good and bad, in the reward of sin, wherein we are all borne and en: ceined: When Lord haue mercy vpon vs, according to the great mercies and loving kindnesse, To whom (Oh sweet Lord) we praye daily Prayers, in this grieuous time of visitation, trusting that will most graciously heare vs for thy deare Sonnes sake our Father Iesus Christ, Amen.